

REMARKS

The office action of November 23, 2005, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over DE 92 18 985.

Claims 12-24 are allowed.

Claim 25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form

In view of the Examiner's rejection of the claims, applicant has canceled claims 12 and 13, and amended claim 25 to be in independent form.

With the cancellation of claims 12 and 13, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is overcome and should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that all the remaining claims are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly requested.

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Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 06-2143.

Respectfully submitted,

By

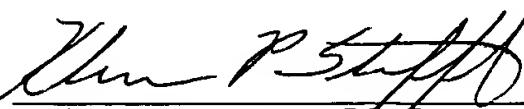


Klaus P. Stoffel  
Reg. No. 31,668  
Wolff & Samson PC  
One Boland Drive  
West Orange, New Jersey 07052  
(973) 530-2086

Dated: February 16, 2006

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 16, 2006.

By:   
Klaus P. Stoffel

Date: February 16, 2006